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INFO RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ JUL 0179  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 3369  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0678  
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA PRIORITY 0024

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 001877

SIPDIS

IO/RHS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/07/2017

TAGS: AORC UN NGO PHUM JA

SUBJECT: CUBA LOBBYING JAPAN TO REJECT HRF APPLICATION TO ECOSOC

REF: STATE 70801

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Joseph R. Donovan for reasons 1. 4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Embassy Tokyo Political Officer delivered reftel demarche July 7 to MOFA Global Issues Cooperation Division Principal Deputy Director Masatoshi Sugiura. Sugiura said that Japan is still in the "information gathering stage" of making a decision on the Human Rights Foundation's (HRF) application for consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and would make a decision next week.

¶2. (C) Cuba also delivered a demarche about the HRF to MOFA, Sugiura noted. The Cuban demarche contained no mention of HRF Board of Directors Chairman Armando Valladares, citing instead the Human Rights Foundation's support for Cuban-born Bolivian dissident, Amauris Samartino, as cause for rejecting the NGO's application. According to Sugiura's description of the demarche, Samartino fomented rebellion in Bolivia's Santa Cruz region, and HRF's support for him constituted unacceptable interference with a foreign government.

SCHIEFFER